

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

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Massachusetts Seventh District

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90 LAWMAKERS CALL ON BUSH TO CONTINUE MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING

Markey letter says return to testing would lead to renewed nuclear arms race

Washington, DC: Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Non-proliferation, today released a letter to President Bush, signed by 89 other lawmakers, calling for the continuation of the self-imposed moratorium on testing nuclear weapons. In an October 21 letter Edward Aldridge, Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, suggested that the Nuclear Weapons Council request the nuclear weapons laboratories "readdress the value of a low yield testing program." The United States has not tested nuclear weapons since September 23, 1992.

"We've already exploded over 1,000 nuclear bombs. We have the world's best data on nuclear explosions, and the people in charge of the safety of the nuclear weapons stockpile don't want to test any more," said Rep. Markey adding, "Why are we even contemplating exploding more?"

The United States signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996. While the Senate has not ratified that treaty, the U.S. has followed a *de facto* policy of not testing nuclear explosives since 1992. Since then, the security of the nuclear weapons stockpile has been maintained by sophisticated computer simulations based on the extensive testing already done by the U.S. Statements by the Department of Energy and a study by the National Academy of Science indicate that a return to testing is neither desired nor needed.

Rep. Markey concluded, "Resumption of nuclear testing by the United States would likely be followed by Russian nuclear testing, then Chinese nuclear testing, and eventually Indian and Pakistani nuclear testing. Why would we encourage a new worldwide nuclear arms race, when we are contemplating war with Iraq, puzzling over North Korea, and worrying over Indian and Pakistani nuclear weapons?"

The letter sent was signed by Representatives Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Ellen O. Tauscher (D-CA), Jim McDermott (D-WA), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), James P. McGovern (D-MA), Lynn C. Woolsey (D-CA), Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY), Lane Evans (D-IL), Hilda L. Solis (D-CA), Bernard Sanders (I-VT), Fortney Pete Stark (D-CA), George Miller (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT), Joseph M. Hoeffel (D-PA), José E. Serrano (D-NY), Rush D. Holt (D-NJ), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Sam Farr (D-CA), Brian Baird (D-WA), Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Edolphus Towns (D-NY), David R. Obey (D-WI), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Dale E. Kildee (D-MI), James L. Oberstar (D-MN), Maurice D. Hinchey (D-NY), Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), Michael E. Capuano (D-MA), Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Martin T. Meehan (D-MA), Howard L. Berman (D-CA), Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH), Eliot L. Engel (D-NY), William D. Delahunt (D-MA), James A. Leach (R-IA), Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), Bart Stupak (D-MI), Barney Frank (D-MA), Michael M. Honda (D-CA), John W. Olver (D-MA), Bobby L. Rush (D-IL), Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Diane E. Watson (D-CA), Donald M. Payne (D-NJ), Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL), John Lewis (D-GA), Anibal Acevedo-Vilá (D-PR), Maxine Waters (D-CA), Nita M. Lowey (D-NY), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA), Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Martin Olav Sabo (D-MN), Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL), Lois Capps (D-CA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Thomas H. Allen (D-ME), John D. Dingell (D-MI), Susan A. Davis (D-CA), Bob Filner (D-CA), Darlene Hooley (D-OR), Timothy J. Ryan (D-OH), John F. Tierney (D-MA), Calvin M. Dooley (D-CA), Corrine Brown (D-FL), John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN), Eni F. H. Faleomavaega (D-AS), Mark Udall (D-CO), Julia Carson (D-IN), James P. Moran (D-VA), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Mike Thompson (D-CA), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), David E. Price (D-NC), Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MO), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Martin Frost (D-TX), Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Tom Udall (D-NM).

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